

Serial No.: 10/084,744
Docket No.: 40655.4100

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated February 10, 2006, within the shortened statutory period for reply. Claims 1, 4-8 and 10-14 were pending in the application.

The Examiner has asserted a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 requiring restriction of the application in the following Groups (along with other species for Group I):

I. Claims 1, 4-8 and 10-12.

II. Claims 13 and 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that examination of all currently pending claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicants therefore respectfully request examination of all currently pending claims.

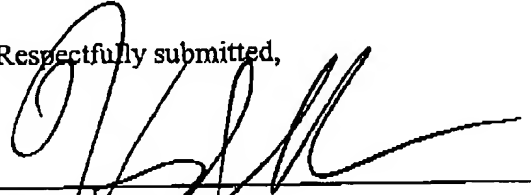
However, Applicants hereby elect Group I, Species Ia consisting of Claims 1, 8 and 10-12, for prosecution in this application. Applicants do not traverse, but not acquiesce to the Examiner's foundation for the Restriction Requirement as set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, the foregoing election and cancelled claims are made without waiver, estoppel or without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims.

The foregoing amendments conform this application to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement dated February 10, 2006. Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below. No new matter is added in this Reply. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. If an extension of time is needed, please accept this as a petition

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for said extension of time. Attorney for applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814, including any required extension fees.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: March 10, 2006

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